

PIQUA Spirit



FALL 2010

Introduction to the 2010 Street Income Tax Renewal Levy

There have been various questions asked about the upcoming Street Income Tax Renewal that will be on the November ballot. The following is a summary of some of those questions along with the answers. If you have any specific questions that are not addressed below, please feel free to contact Amy Havenar, City Engineer at 937-778-2044.

Will this raise my income taxes?

No. It is simply a renewal of a tax that has been in place for 20 years.

How much is the proposed renewal?

One quarter of one percent. (0.25%) A citizen earning \$30,000 a year will pay \$75.00 per year.

What amount of income tax dollars is collected each year from the 0.25% Street tax levy?
\$1.03 million

What are these dollars used for?

These dollars are used for only the construction of new roadways, the reconstruction of roadways and the resurfacing of roadways within the City of Piqua.

Can the City of Piqua take the money from somewhere else to apply it to street repairs?

No. The City Charter prohibits use of electric, water, wastewater, refuse and other enterprise funds for street work.

Won't this hurt people on fixed incomes, like social security and pensions-and persons who are unemployed?

NOT AT ALL! City income tax is not collected on income from social security, pensions or unemployment benefits.

Over the last 10 years how many miles have been resurfaced and/or reconstructed?

Since the renewal of the Levy in 2001, the City has resurfaced over 29 miles of roadway at a total cost of \$4,045,700 and reconstructed over 4.6 miles of roadway at a total cost of \$10,520,000.

What are the benefits to property owners, if the income tax is passed?

Safe, efficient streets add to the favorable quality of life which exists in the City of Piqua. Better streets impose less wear and tear on vehicles, resulting in maintenance costs savings to users of public streets.

Are federal and state grants used to help with the cost?

Yes, the City utilizes both Federal and State grants to help offset the costs of the reconstruction projects and has received over \$9 million in both Federal and State Grants for reconstruction projects over the past 10 years. To be eligible to receive these grants, the City is required to leverage a portion of local dollars as a match. The 0.25% portion of the City Income Tax has been, and with passage of the levy renewal, would continue to be used as the local match portion. Without the Street Levy Tax, the City will no longer be able to apply for grants.

How many streets need attention now and what kind of attention is needed?

Based upon information compiled from the 2009 street survey, there are currently 30% of the City streets that are in need of resurfacing. There are 18 streets that are in need of a total street reconstruction at this time. The street survey is completed yearly to determine the condition of the roadways. A determination is made, based upon the survey, whether the streets should be reconstructed, resurfaced, crack sealed, or nothing needs to be done to them at that time. Based on the street survey projects are prioritized for completion based on dollars available.

How would street projects be done if the levy fails?

Without the passage of the 0.25% Street Income Tax Renewal, both the Street Reconstruction and the Street Resurfacing Program would cease to exist. Without the Street Levy Tax, we will no longer be able to apply for grants. At that point, the only work that can be done is the basic in-house street and pothole patching program out of the Street Maintenance (101) fund.

What is the difference between the Street Maintenance Fund (101) and the Street Levy Fund (103)? Where does the funding come from and what can each be used for?

Street Levy Fund (103) are funds derived from the 0.25% portion of the City Income Tax dedicated to be used solely for the construction, reconstruction and resurfacing of roadways within the City

of Piqua. The renewal is for a 10-year period and was last renewed on January 1, 2001. Street Maintenance Fund (101) is supported by the General Fund income tax, with other street monies coming from gasoline tax and license plate tax. The activities supported by this fund include personnel, operation & maintenance and capital equipment purchases.

What is the difference between Street resurfacing and Street reconstruction?

Street Resurfacing consists of installing a brand new layer of asphalt on top of the existing street surface. Some streets are ground down (milled) first at the curb line before resurfacing so asphalt will not build up at the edge of the gutter. Street resurfacing also consists of the construction of ADA compliant concrete curb ramps at all of the intersections located within the resurfaced streets as well as the placement of pavement markings on the newly resurfaced roadway. Street resurfacing is completed on streets to extend their life of approximately 10-15 years. Street Reconstruction consists of removal of the entire roadway system all the way down to the sub-grade (dirt). This includes the installation of new stone base, asphalt, curb & gutter and sidewalk. In most cases the removal and replacement of the storm sewers, sanitary sewers and water mains is also included as a part of the Street reconstruction project. Street reconstruction projects are designed to last approximately 25-30 years under normal conditions.

2001-2010 Streets Reconstructed

Brook (Brice, Boal & Cottage) Reconstruction	McKinley Avenue Reconstruction
Carr Street Reconstruction	Mulberry, Renche, & Glenn Reconstruction
Covington Avenue Reconstruction - Phase II	Riverside Drive Reconstruction - Phase I
CR 25-A Reconstruction	Riverside/Broadway Reconstruction - Phase II
E. Ash Street Widening	Staunton Street Reconstruction
Innovation Pkwy Construction - Phase I	Upway Drive Reconstruction
Innovation Pkwy Construction - Phase II	

2001-2010 Streets Resurfaced

Ash St.	Greene St.	Pinewood Ave.	Washington & High St. Intersection
Boone St.	Harvard St.	R.M. Davis Pkwy.	Washington Ave.
Brentwood Ave.	High St.	Rundle Ave.	Water St.
Caldwell St.	Industry Park Dr.	S. Downing St.	Wayne St.
Clark Ave.	Johnston St.	S. Roosevelt Ave.	West High St.
College St.	Lambert Dr.	S.R. 185 Resurfacing	West Water St.
Commerce Dr.	Leonard St.	Second St.	Westview Dr.
Commercial Dr.	Lindsey	S. Main St.	Willard St.
CR 25-A	Manier Ave.	South St.	Wilson Ave.
Downing St.	Maple St.	Spring St.	Wood St.
E. Main St.	Martz Dr.	Staunton St.	Y St.
East St.	Meteor Rd.	Steele St.	Young St.
Edge St.	Miami St.	Sunset Ave.	
First St.	Mote Ln.	Third St.	
Fisk St.	Mound St.	Troy - Sidney Rd.	
Fountain Blvd.	North Main St.	U.S. 36 East St.	
Garbry Rd.	North St.	U.S. 36 West St.	
Glenwood Ave.	Orchard Dr.	Vine St.	
Grant St.	Park Ave.	Walker St.	

**Your Tax Dollars
at Work!**

SERVING ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

At various times, openings occur on various city boards and committees. Serving on Boards and Committees is an excellent way to be involved in the activities of City Government. Residents are provided a wide variety of options on the types of Boards that are part of the City of Piqua.

The Boards and Committees are as follows:

- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Charter Review Committee
- Civil Service Committee
- Community Diversity Committee
- Downtown District Design Review Board
- Energy Board
- Forest Hill Union Cemetery Board
- Golf Control Board
- Housing Council
- Income Tax Board of Review
- Park Board
- Planning Commission
- Tax Incentive Review Board
- Stormwater Utility Board
- Tree Committee

Openings are announced through various forms of media: APTA (Channel 5), WPTW, the City of Piqua's website at www.piquaoh.org, the City public bulletin board and through our local newspaper. Opportunities to serve are also announced at the City Commission meetings.

CITY COMMISSION

John Martin

Commissioner, 1st Ward
Home: 773-2778
Ward1comm@piquaoh.org

William Vogt

Commissioner, 2nd Ward
Home: 773-8217
Ward2comm@piquaoh.org

Joseph Wilson

Commissioner, 3rd Ward
Home: 778-0390
Ward3comm@piquaoh.org

Julia (Judy) Terry

Commissioner, 4th Ward
Home: 773-3189
Ward4comm@piquaoh.org

Lucinda L. (Lucy) Fess

Mayor & Commissioner,
5th Ward
Home: 773-7929
Ward5comm@piquaoh.org

When openings are announced, interested individuals should complete an application form and then submit the form to the City Manager's Office. Application forms can be obtained from the City Manager's Office located at the Municipal Government Complex or they can be downloaded off the Internet at the City of Piqua's web page at www.piquaoh.org.

In Memory of Harry Bumgarner

Harry Bumgarner, former Assistant City Manager/Development Director, passed away on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 after an eighteen month battle with cancer. Harry joined the City in 2006 and was instrumental in the re-engineering of the City's economic development program including Grow Piqua Now (GPN). Harry never met a stranger and was loved by all who knew him.



He enjoyed golfing, watching football, his trips to Cancun and most importantly his family and friends. Harry was preceded in death by his wife Nancy. He is survived by two sons, Aaron and Adam, and his granddaughter Nora. Harry will be greatly missed by all of us.

Going Places Together – Which Way Do We Want To Go?

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission needs your help! Come find out what people throughout the Miami Valley Region think about how the region should grow and change in the next 30 years and help us select a vision! Join us at our open house from 4 pm to 6 pm at Troy Rec, 11 N Market St, Troy OH on October 21 and let us know the direction you want your region to go. Come as you are, drop in when you can, stay as long as you like. For more information, visit www.mvrpc.org/rlu or contact staff at 937-223-6323 or goingplaces@mvrpc.org.

Events & Dates

October 28 ~ Trick-or-Treat/Beggars Night - 6:00 - 8:00 pm

November 19 through November 21
Downtown Piqua Holiday Open House
(Call 773-9355 for more information)

November 30 through December 12
Festival of Trees
(New this year ~ Call 773-9355 for more information)

December 3 ~ Christmas on the Green - 6:00 - 9:00 pm
(Call 773-9355 for more information)

December 4 ~ Holly Jolly Run - 10:00 am
(Call 773-9355 for more information)

December 4 ~ Downtown Piqua Holiday Parade - 2:00 pm
(Call 773-9355 for more information)

Annual Leaf Pick-Up

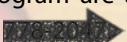
City crews will begin leaf pick-up the end of October and continue through the beginning of December. Leaf pick-up crews will cover the City three (3) full rounds, plus additional coverage, as needed in areas with a heavy concentration of leaves.

To help provide efficient pick-up, citizens are asked to rake leaves with regard to the following:

- ✓ Rake leaves to the curb line. On streets with no curbs, rake leave to the edge of the asphalt.
- ✓ Keep leaf piles free of stones, cans, trash, sticks, etc. These items can damage the vacuum equipment.
- ✓ Do not rake leaves to the alley or to the boulevards.
- ✓ Make sure leaves are not piled under, between or around parked cars.

Leaf Pick-Up Hotline –  **778-2047**

A recorded message will be updated each day, describing the location in which crews are working. Please call the hotline to receive schedule information.

Those with questions or requiring additional information pertaining to this program are advised to contact the Street Department at  **778-2095**.

Dispose of Your Leaves at the City Compost Facility...FREE!

In an effort to assist residents with their leaf pick-up, the City will allow residents to dispose of their leaves free of charge. Starting on October 4th through December 17th, residents may take their leaves to the City Compost Facility. Residents may contact the Street Department at (937) 778-2095 to schedule a time to take their leaves to the Compost Facility during the hours of 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Normally, the cost to dispose of leaves is \$10 per truck or trailer load, but in an effort to assist residents as well as City crews, this fee will be waived during this time period. This will allow residents to remove their leaves at their convenience, which will free up parking spaces in residential areas, keep leaves from collecting in storm sewer systems, and allow City crews more time to work on street related issues.

The City is hoping to get a multitude of residents to participate in this program, which is a win-win for all involved. All leaves collected will be composted and sold next spring and summer as compost for gardens and flowerbeds. The compost is a very nutrient rich product that resembles topsoil. The City has been composting leaves and making mulch at this facility since 2003. All leaves brought to the facility must be free of brush, bushes or any type of wood. Those items may also be taken to the Compost Facility for a nominal fee. The facility is located on Piqua-Troy Road is approximately 1.5 miles south of Garnsey Street.

For questions or scheduling, please contact the Street Department at 778-2095.

City Implements New Telephone & Voice Mail System

The City of Piqua recently implemented a new telephone and voice mail system. In the past, the various City facilities used separate, stand-alone systems and the City used numerous dedicated telephone lines. With the new telephone system we are able to take advantage of the network connectivity between the City facilities to integrate the systems, introduce new features and save money each month in the process.

The system has a number of features that will allow the City to better serve the citizens and others who try to contact the City. Voicemail will allow City facilities to better serve their customers and allow the employees to be more productive by allowing callers to contact the correct person and get the correct information to that person – no more “telephone-tag”. Other features such as department-specific welcome messages/instructions, time-of-day specific outgoing messages and incoming caller ID will help the City more efficiently and effectively interact with the citizens.

Better communications between city government and its citizens is a 2010 Strategic Planning goal. An integrated voice mail system with adjustable/changeable welcome messages will allow the City to more efficiently and effectively communicate with the citizens.

In addition to the features of the new telephone system for increased efficiency, the City will save considerably on each month's telephone bills due to the decrease in dedicated telephone lines and the use of the City's network for much of the telephone traffic.

Below is listing of the main departments' telephone numbers:

City Manager's Office	778-2051
Engineering Department	778-2044
Finance Department	778-2065
Fire Department (non-emergency)	778-2013
Health & Sanitation	778-2060
Human Resources	778-2052
Income Tax Department	778-2009
Information Technology	778-2064
Police Department (non-emergency)	778-2027
Power System	778-2077
Streets/Parks/Recreation	778-2095
Utility Business Office	778-2000
Wastewater Treatment Plant	778-2088
Water Department	778-2090

Summer 2010 Residence Pride Recipients

The Summer Residence Pride Awards were announced on August 3, 2010. The Residence Pride Committee members met and selected award winners from the nominations received. The recipients were:



Betty Giesseman
205 Maryville Ln.

Valerie Hinkle
208 N. Roosevelt Ave.

Thomas Kohlhorst
924 Caldwell St.

Greg & Lori Miller
826 W. High St.

Sunset Cleaners
111 S. Downing St.
Jason Minnich
(Owner)

Please look around your neighborhood or while driving through town take notice of homes that have been improved, beautiful landscaping or a home that has always been well maintained and nominate that house!

Nomination forms are available on the City's website @www.piquaoh.org or stop by and pick one up at the Municipal Government Complex at the front desk or in the Administration office. You may also nominate multiple homes!

The Committee looks forward to receiving your nominations for the 2011 award year.

NOTICE

Please check city website or call Utilities Office for outstanding utilities before purchasing a property.

Piqua Spirit is a quarterly newsletter from the City of Piqua. The purpose is to keep you informed about what is happening in your City.

CITY MANAGER

Fred Enderle

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City Staff**

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**Your comments and questions
are welcomed.**

**Call (937) 778-2051
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www.piquaoh.org**



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